MARVEL

1

TIERI
FLAVIANO
BLEE

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

LETHAL PROTECTORS

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THE TOWN OF DOVERTON, COLORADO, WAS ONCE TAKEN OVER BY THE SYMBIOTIC, PSYCHOTIC KILLER CLETUS KASADY, A.K.A. CARNAGE.

WHILE RESEARCHING THE DISINTERRED GRAVES IN DOVERTON, JOHN JAMESON UNCOVERED A MASSIVE CULT WORSHIPPING THE SYMBIOTE GOD, KNULL.

MISTY KNIGHT WAS DISPATCHED TO LOCATE JAMESON AFTER HE WENT MISSING DURING HIS INVESTIGATION, AND SHE DISCOVERED HIM NAKED WITH GAPS IN HIS MEMORY. THEY LEFT ON A ROAD TRIP BACK TO NEW YORK...BUT ALL IS NOT AS IT SEEMS WITH JOHN JAMESON...

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

LETHAL PROTECTORS

WARNING: THE EVENTS OF THIS STORY TAKE PLACE *AFTER* **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 & #2.** IF YOU HAVEN'T READ THEM YET, PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK!

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RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.

HOURS AGO.

BRRRRNG!

BRRRRNG!

JAMESON! THANK GOD YOU PICKED UP, PAL.

YOU KNOW...

...I DON'T QUITE THINK I'LL EVER REALLY GET USED TO THE FACT THAT ***SPIDER-MAN*** HAS MY NUMBER.

YEAH, BUT TOO BAD THIS ISN'T JUST A CALL BETWEEN TWO BUDS TO TALK ABOUT HOW MUCH THE METS ARE BLOWING IT AS USUAL.

WERE YOU ABLE TO PULL OFF THAT LITTLE FAVOR I ASKED FOR?

WASN'T EASY...BUT YES.

WE DON'T LIKE THIS.

WE'RE NOT SURE WE CAN TRUST JAMESON.

HE'S MY FRIEND. HE'S NOT GOING TO SCREW US. HE'S OKAY.

I'M SORRY, WHAT WAS THAT?

NOTHING.

ANYWAY... SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN CLEAR THE FACILITY? GET US INSIDE?

GET US TO SEE *NORMAN?*

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"YEAH. IT'S LIKE I SAID...

"...DON'T WORRY.

"IT'S ALL BEEN TAKEN CARE OF."

MAXIMUM SECURITY WING

SEE YOU SOON.

CLICK

WE'LL ALL BE SEEING YOU SOON.

WON'T WE, NORMAN?

SORRY, CHARLIE... I'M AFRAID NORMAN OSBORN'S OUT TO LUNCH RIGHT NOW.

BUT CLETUS KASADY, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS ALL AFLUTTER WITH ANTICIPATION.

"I JUST LOVE GETTING TOGETHER WITH OLD FRIENDS."

NOW.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

AS I PRAY TO ALMIGHTY KNULL, I WILLINGLY STEP FROM OUT OF THE LIGHT.

AND AS I AM BATHED IN HIS EVERLASTING DARKNESS, I GIVE MYSELF OVER TO HIM.

GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
HSSSS!
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.

SPLINTER

GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.

KNULL WELCOMES YOU TO THE FOLD, PRISONERS OF RAVENCROFT. HE ACCEPTS THE SACRIFICE OF YOUR **SPINES** AND THEIR **CODEXES.**

HE ACCEPTS YOUR BLOOD.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED... LET'S GET THIS THING UNDERWAY, SHALL WE?

DOPPELGANGER.

SHRIEK.

JOHN JAMESON.

WHICH ONE OF YOU IS GONNA RETRIEVE OUR GUEST FOR THIS LITTLE PARTY OF OURS?

ALLOW ME, MY LORD CARNAGE. AFTER ALL...

"...SHE'S MY PLUS-ONE."

HELLO, MISTY.

IT'S TIME.

YOUR BIONIC ARM, PLEASE.

JOHN... YOU DON'T *WANT* TO DO THIS.

"YOU DIDN'T *WANT* TO DO WHAT YOU DID IN DOVERTON.*

*SEE WHAT HAPPENED IN DOVERTON IN **WEB OF VENOM: CULT OF CARNAGE #1!** -EDITOR

"WHATEVER THEY'VE DONE TO YOU..."

...THIS ISN'T YOU.

IT... DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S ME OR NOT.

YOU...YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE, MISTY. TO HAVE THESE THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD.

TO HAVE ***CARNAGE'S*** THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD.

WHAT HE'S DOING TO YOU... IT'S TO GET TO ME, YOU KNOW? HE HATES ME. HE ALWAYS HAS. THIS IS ALL ABOUT PROVING MY LOYALTY TO HIM.

AND I ***WILL*** PROVE MY LOYALTY TO HIM. I HAVE TO.

KNULL COMMANDS IT.

SO CUT THE CRAP AND HAND OVER YOUR ARM BEFORE I RIP YOUR THROAT OUT.

CLAC!

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, JOHN.

CLIC!

WHY THE HELL WOULD YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME?

BECAUSE ONE DAY--I DON'T KNOW ***HOW***, I DON'T KNOW ***WHEN***-- YOU'RE GOING TO SNAP OUT OF THIS.

"AND WHEN YOU DO, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A VERY HARD TIME LIVING WITH WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN."

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

GOD IS COMING.

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS A TOKEN OF MY FIDELITY, MY LORD CARNAGE.

SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US, KNIGHT

OH YEAH, I'M JUST *THRILLED* TO BE HERE. YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE A FUN GROUP.

NOW, WHAT SAY WE JUST GET THIS OVER WITH ALREADY, SHALL WE?

YOU WOULDN'T BE IN SUCH A RUSH...

...IF YOU KNEW WHAT WAS COMING

GEE, LET ME TAKE A WILD GUESS.

CREEPY CULTISTS. PENTAGRAM DRAWN IN BLOOD. AND ME AS THE HUMAN SACRIFICE.

YOU'RE BRINGING BACK SOMETHING FROM THE *DEAD.*

BINGO! THE GIRL WINS A PRIZE...WELL ALMOST.

YA NAILED PRETTY MUCH OUR ENTIRE DANCE CARD. EXCEPT FOR ONE SMALL DETAIL...

YOU AIN'T THE SACRIFICE.

I AM.

THE ENTITY WE'RE RESURRECTING REQUIRES A WILLING HOST. ONE THAT HAS GIVEN ITSELF OVER FULLY TO OUR CAUSE. TO KNULL.

TO CARNAGE.

I LOVE YOU.

SPLURTCH!

I KNOW.

HOLY #$%&!

IF I'M NOT MEANT TO BE SACRIFICED--

--THEN WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING HERE?

OH, THAT'S EASY. ONCE OUR FRIEND HERE IS RESURRECTED, SOME NOURISHMENT IS GONNA BE REQUIRED.

YOU'RE LUNCH.

MOVE OUR PROVERBIAL HAM SANDWICH IN POSITION, PLEASE.

HEY...

WHY IS IT GLOWING LIKE TH--

CHOOOOOOOOOOM
YOU KNOW, YOU GOTTA HAND IT TO MY SUPERIORS. WHEN THEY SENT ME TO DOVERTON TO FIND JOHN, THEY SUSPECTED CARNAGE MIGHT'VE BEEN BEHIND THE MASSACRE THERE.
CLAC!
AS SUCH, THEY OUTFITTED MY ARM WITH A NEW SPECIAL SONIC BLAST FEATURE. DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO USE IT BEFORE...
CHOOOOOOOOOM!
...BUT I'M SURE AS HELL GONNA USE IT NOW.
USE IT ALL YOU WANT, MORTAL FOOL.

IT WON'T DO A DAMN BIT OF GOOD AGAINST ME.

RRRRRRRRIPPPPP!

AHHHHHH!

DEMOGOBLIN?!

THAT'S WHO YOU WERE RESURRECTING?

DEMAGOBLIN, IF YOU PLEASE.

NOW, BE A DEAR AND STAY STILL FOR ME. I LIKE MY MEAT COOKED.

SORRY, BUT I'M TAKING MYSELF OFF THE MENU, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

THAT GRATE...

DON'T KNOW WHERE IT LEADS. DON'T MUCH CARE.

AS LONG AS IT AIN'T *HERE.*

I'M AFRAID... SHE'S MADE IT TO THE SEWERS UNDERNEATH, LORD CARNAGE.

AFRAID IS WHAT YOU *OUGHTA* BE. THIS IS ON *YOU*, JAMESON. SHE'S *YOUR* RESPONSIBILITY.

LET *ME* GO AFTER HER.

LET ME DO TO HER WHAT I DO TO THIS INFERNAL TRICK ARM OF HERS.

KRAKKK-!

MAN OH MAN, I MISSED YOU, DEMO-- I MEAN, DEMAGOBLIN. HAVING YOU HERE MERGED WITH SHRIEK LIKE THIS, AND GOOD OL' DOPPELGANGER HERE... IT'S LIKE *OLD TIMES.*

NOW IF ONLY WE COULD FIGURE OUT A WAY TO BRING BACK POOR CARRION, AND THE BAND WOULD REALLY BE BACK TOGETHER...

YOU DON'T SEEM OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT MISTY KNIGHT'S ESCAPE.

MAYBE 'CAUSE I KNOW SOMETHING THAT YOU DON'T.

"YA SEE...I KNOW WHAT'S IN THEM SEWERS.

"AND I KNOW IT'S A HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN MISTY KNIGHT BARGAINED FOR.

"A HELL OF A LOT MORE.

"HEH. HEH. HEH..."

TO BE CONTINUED...

CLETUS' CLUBHOUSE

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SEND EMAILS TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM** (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)

Hello, Venomaniacs, and welcome to another installment of Cletus' Clubhouse!

And, unless you've been living under a rock, you already know that it's the summer of slaughter as ABSOLUTE CARNAGE continues.

If you're picking this issue up, you've probably been keeping up with the main event of the series—but if you haven't, GO BUY IT AND READ IT NOW! RIGHT NOW! You're probably terribly confused!

Are you all caught up? GOOD!

At the time of this writing, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and #2 and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1 have been sent to the printer but aren't on sale in comic shops yet! So we don't have any letters from you symbiotic superfans out there in Mighty Marveldom yet to flesh out this very letters page. BUT YOU CAN FIX THAT! Got a bone to pick about continuity? Drop us a line at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM and mark it "OKAY TO PRINT," and it may wind up in our next issue!

ITEM: Fortunately, for yours truly, there's no shortage of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE news to share, including some about this very comics mag!

This event is a love letter to all the Venom stories that have come before—a violent, scary love letter from a bloodthirsty extraterrestrial, but a love letter just the same.

But it's not enough for Donny and Ryan, with JP and Frank, to wax nostalgic. No way. This is a team of creators who are DEDICATED to bringing you as many scares and uncomfortable squirms that they can muster—and as you've seen for yourself, that's a lot.

If you thought what happened to Miles and Scorpion was bad, you may not be ready for what comes next!

ITEM: But amongst all the terror and action, we're also looking to EXPAND the Marvel Mythos wherever we can, and we've been lucky enough to expand the VENOM family with this event!

We knew from the beginning that we wanted Miles Morales to play a big part in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE. He and Venom have history, and he came face-to-face with Knull in Donny and Ryan's opening arc.

And the only man for bringing that story to life is Saladin Ahmed, the Eisner-winning writer of the ongoing Miles Morales series! Saladin obviously writes a great Miles/Spider-Man, but it's the way he writes Mac Gargan that REALLY excited me about being able to bring him into the fold of the event.

I dunno about you, but reading the script, I found Saladin's take on Mac TERRIFYING. It's not every day that you can reinvigorate a character who's been through so much as Mac, but here Saladin is, making him a bloodthirsty killer—and I'm HERE for it.

But comics are an illustrated medium, and for this series, we were lucky enough to be joined by Federico Vincentini, doing his first work for Marvel. This may be

his debut, but you'd never know it looking at Federico's pages. His work has a real energy and kineticism to it, and I can't wait for you to see what he's done in issue #2...!

Add in series editor Kathleen Wisneski, who knows the Spider-World inside and out, and you've got a recipe for a story that'll leave you reeling in the best way possible—and it's on sale RIGHT NOW!

ITEM: But a story all about Carnage wouldn't be complete without his cronies, and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS is all about 'em, and one of the most ruthless books I've ever worked on. The characters are creepy, the monsters are scary and there's a real grim energy to the whole thing.

(Maybe the demonic resurrection has something to do with that?)

When it came time to bring this story to life, we knew Frank Tieri was the only man for the job. The comics equivalent of a soldier of fortune, Frank came in on a chopper and wielding an M16—pitching a story about a mental asylum, a lycan and a whole lot of symbiote goo.

He's a madman, but I think you'll agree he's got the goods.

And so does illustrator Flaviano! Flaviano turned heads on BLACK WIDOW, and we knew his violent, moody sensibilities would breathe terrifying life into Frank's scripts! Just look at that Carnage/Demagoblin kiss—makes my SKIN CRAWL!

That's it for us in this one, Venomaniacs! Keep your eyes peeled at your local comic shop for the line of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE tie-ins as the summer of slaughter continues!

And remember: Tell your shop that you want the best, and this summer, the best is CARNAGE! #carnagerules

Stay Sharp,
Devin

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE CHECKLIST

AUGUST
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1
X VENOM #17

SEPTEMBER
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE:
GHOST RIDER - SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS #1
VENOM #18
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30

OCTOBER
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK #1
VENOM #19
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31

NOVEMBER
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5
VENOM #20